



# THIS WEEK IN AGRICULTURE

*News briefs from and about Idaho's agricultural industry*

**May 1-7, 2005**

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## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Opportunity to provide written submissions or documents**

NOTICE: The Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture intends to issue a determination pursuant to Idaho Code § 22-4803(1) concerning economically viable alternatives to thermal disposal of crop residue. In accordance with the requirements of § 22-4803(1), the Director will determine whether economically viable alternatives exist to burning for the purpose of (1) disposing of crop residues, (2) developing physiological conditions conducive to increased crop yields, or (3) controlling diseases, insects, pests or weed infestations.

Written or electronic submissions of documents pertaining to the determination will be considered by the Director if received by 5:00 PM Mountain Standard Time, May 15, 2005. Any such items should be addressed or delivered to the attention of:

Patrick A. Takasugi Director,  
Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 790  
2270 Old Penitentiary Road  
Boise, Idaho 83712  
[asmp@agri.state.id.us](mailto:asmp@agri.state.id.us)

## **ISDA LAUNCHES NEW CUSTOMER-FOCUSED WEBSITE**

BOISE, Idaho – Pat Takasugi, director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, is proud to announce the launch of their all new, user-friendly website, [www.idahoag.us](http://www.idahoag.us), on May 4, 2005. "Our philosophy is that the use of technology should make life easier," said Takasugi, "therefore, we took a new customer-focused approach. We entrusted our employees who have the working knowledge of our programs and services to design, develop and implement this new site. Customers just want answers, and this site was designed with that in mind." Straightforward descriptions of the department's services should make it easy for visitors to locate the information they are seeking in a quick and efficient manner.

Many inquiries previously requiring research and response from ISDA staff can now be found directly on our website. The excellent performance of this team of employees in developing this new website internally has resulted in savings far in excess of the cost of outside development. The operating efficiencies gained from the new website this team has created will provide savings immediately, and far into the future.

ISDA encourages all Idahoans to visit this new website and use the feedback form to submit comments and suggestions.

*For more information, please contact Kathy Killen at 332-8503.*

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## **ISDA WELCOMES NEW GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) ANALYST**

BOISE, Idaho- "I am very enthusiastic to have Stephen as part of our team. The knowledge he brings will greatly benefit the department as a whole" stated Matt Voile Noxious Weed Program Manager.

Stephen Cox graduated from Utah State University in 2001, with a BS in Geography, emphasizing in GIS and Remote Sensing. After graduation he worked for the Farm Service Agency in Logan Utah as the GIS Manager. He was mainly responsible for transferring ownership information from paper maps into a digital GIS database.

In March of 2003 Stephen decided that it was time to move back to Idaho so he took a position with the City of Caldwell in the Engineering department. Deciding that he was more interested in a natural resource application to GIS he took a position with the Idaho Department of Lands as a GIS Analyst. Stephen was responsible for helping the Timber and Range programs on the state endowment lands, inventory of roads, watershed analysis, and training employees in the use of GIS.

Stephen's family includes his wife Janet, 2 boys ages 4 and 3, and a little girl born March of this year. Janet was born and raised on a Dairy in Rupert Idaho, and is happy to be back in Idaho.

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### ISDA'S WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM ANALYST

BOISE, Idaho-Please join us in welcoming Kevin Bortz as a new member to the ISDA IT group. Kevin will be filling an IT Programmer Analyst, senior position. Kevin has a bachelor's degree in Electronics Technology and will be finishing up a second bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from BSU next month. He lives in Boise with his wife Emily. He has about five years experience in the IT world – three of which were at Jabil Circuit, Inc. Kevin has been assisting ISDA in the new web site implementation, and will be transitioning to a combination of duties including web administration, systems administration, GIS administration, and computer programming in Microsoft .NET.

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### IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S SPRING PESTICIDE DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Collections scheduled for north and southwest Idaho are safe, legal and free

BOISE, Idaho – Agricultural producers, dealers, applicators and homeowners who are storing unusable pesticides will have a safe, legal and free opportunity to dispose of them this May when the Idaho State Department of Agriculture conducts unusable pesticide collections in Caldwell, Weiser, Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Participation is free for the first 1,000 pounds of unusable pesticides per participant. Anyone with unusable herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides should bring them to the closest collection site between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on the date and location listed below (Sorry no fertilizer, micronutrients, paint, solvents, equipment or motor oil can be accepted):

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 16, 2005	Caldwell	Canyon County Fairgrounds
May 17, 2005	Weiser	Idaho Department of Transportation Yard
May 18, 2005	Lewiston	Nez Perce County Fairgrounds
May 19, 2005	Coeur d'Alene	Coeur d'Alene Transfer Station

"These collections provide a mechanism for safely disposing of chemicals in an environmentally sound manner. The unusable pesticides collected in May will be incinerated or otherwise destroyed," said Victor Mason II, Manager of the Department's Pesticide Disposal and Container Recycling Programs.

Since 1993, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture has safely disposed of more than half a million pounds of unusable pesticides. Pesticides become unusable for many reasons, including loss of potency, exposure to temperature extremes, cancellation or suspension by state or federal authorities, or growers' decisions to change their cropping rotations or practices.

*For more information about the collections, or if you would like to speak with someone about the collections, please contact 208-465-8442*

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## **ISDA MARKETING MONTH AT A GLANCE**

<b>May 12-13</b>	<b>World Trade Day – presented by the Idaho Export Council Boise Centre on the Grove- Boise, Idaho</b>
<b>May 14-28</b>	<b>Governor's Trade Mission To Asia-Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Shanghai and Beijing</b>

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## **DIRECTOR TAKASUGI CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

<b>May 1-3</b>	<b>2005 U.S Food Export Showcase - Chicago, Illinois</b>
<b>May 3</b>	<b>Idaho Rural Partnership Board of Directors Meeting - Idaho Falls</b>

**Editor's Note: Please forward any press releases or information to [rmason@idahoag.us](mailto:rmason@idahoag.us) by 10:00 a.m. Thursday**